

**Bloomington Celebrates
Disability Awareness Month during March 2019
and
Community Accessibility Month During April 2019
(As of March 1)**

The months of March and April offer Bloomington a time to consider ways in which our community is a welcoming one to people with disabilities. During March, Bloomington and communities across Indiana celebrate **Disability Awareness Month**. In April, the City of Bloomington's Council for Community Accessibility celebrates **Accessibility Awareness Month**. A wealth of activities will be occurring in Bloomington and on the IU campus over these next two months. Individuals with disabilities, family members, service providers, faculty, and other community members are encouraged to participate.

MARCH DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Friday, March 1st – Sunday, March 31st Stone Belt Art Exhibition

Part of Stone Belt's Lifelong Learning Program, Stone Belt Art provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to expand their capacity for self-expression, contribute to the beautification of their community, and develop new life skills. The exhibition will be located at the Monroe Public Library in the gallery exhibit space. For more information, contact Adam Hamel at (812) 332-2168 ext. 269 or ahamel@stonebelt.org.

Thursday, March 7th "Way to Go" Travel Training

Bloomington Transit hosts free travel training sessions for individuals and groups. The purpose is to teach people of all abilities to navigate the city bus system. Sessions are held each month. This March 7th class will be held at 1:30 - 3:30 pm at the 3rd & Walnut Transit Center. Additional classes can be arranged. Interested persons or groups must RSVP. For more information and to RSVP contact Eli McCormick, Customer Service Manager, at mccormick@bloomingtontransit.com or 812-336-7433.

Thursday, March 7th Disability Month Awareness Film Series: *Including Samuel*

Before his son Samuel was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, photojournalist Dan Habib rarely thought about inclusion of people with disabilities. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. Show and produced over four years, Habib's award-winning documentary film, "Including Samuel," chronicles the Habib family's efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives. The film will be showing at the Monroe County Public Library in the Auditorium from 6:30pm – 8:30pm on March 7th. For more information, please contact Adam Hamel at (812) 332-2168 ext. 269 or ahamel@stonebelt.org.

Saturday, March 9th PALS Volunteer Training

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS) is offering a volunteer training for individuals interested in participating in PALS therapeutic equine programs. Responsibilities include leading horses and/or side-walking for our clients during riding sessions. Volunteers have the opportunity to work closely with PALS clients, learn about therapeutic equine programs, and help groom, saddle, train, and care for horses and help with barn chores. No horse experience necessary! This training will be held from 10:00-12:30pm on March 9th. For more information, contact volunteer@palstherapy.org or 812-336-2798 ext. 0.

Monday, March 11th CCA Transportation and Mobility Committee Monthly Meeting

Come join us as we plan our rideshare event to be held May 23rd. Want to learn more about using Uber and Lyft services? Have questions or concerns? Come ask our panel and get hands-on demonstrations in practical use of these transportation options. Also, at our March meeting, learn more about what's being done to address the accessibility concerns of the FSSA building on Curry Pike. Meeting begins at 4:00 in the Dunlap Room at City Hall. Questions? Contact Michael Shermis at cca@bloomington.in.gov

Tuesday, March 12th Caregiver University: *Healthy Living for the Body and Brain*

For centuries we've known that the health of the body and brain are connected. But now, science is able to provide insights into how to make lifestyle choices that may help you keep your brain and body healthy as you age. Learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity, and social engagement, and using hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging. This event will be held from 3:00 pm – 4:00pm at the Monroe County Public Library - Room 1C. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson at (812) 349-3103 or cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us.

Thursday, March 14th Disability Month Awareness Film Series: *Life, Animated*

From Academy Award-winning director Roger Ross Williams comes the story of Owen Suskind, a young man who couldn't speak as a child until he discovered a unique way to communicate by immersing himself in the world of Disney animated films. The film will be showing at the Monroe County Public Library in the Auditorium from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. For more information, please contact Adam Hamel at (812) 332-2168 ext. 269 or ahamel@stonebelt.org.

Monday, March 18th Heartland Association American Council of the Blind (ACB) Meeting

The Heartland Association of ACB meets bimonthly on the 3rd Monday of the month for a casual meet and greet at 6:30 pm, and with the program beginning at 7:00 pm. The March 18th meeting will be held in the Monroe County Public Library. Program details TBA. For more information, contact Barbara Salisbury at barbara.salisbury@att.net or 812-369-0355.

Thursday, March 21st

Disability Month Awareness Film Series: *Billy the Kid*

"I'm not black, I'm not white, not foreign, just different in the mind. Different brains, that's all," explains 15-year-old Billy in Jennifer Venditti's provocative coming of age film. Billy's intuitive commentary and intimate verite footage reveal a unique attitude as he responds to a painful childhood, first time love, and his experience as an outsider in small town Maine. By turns humorous and disturbing, this portrait challenges the viewer to understand a triumphant teen on his own terms. The film will be showing at the Monroe County Public Library in the Auditorium from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. For more information, please contact Adam Hamel at (812) 332-2168 ext. 269 or ahamel@stonebelt.org.

Sunday, March 24th

Autism & Sensory-Friendly Movie: *Ralph Breaks the Internet*

The lights are up, the sound is low, and talking and movement are allowed! This month: Ralph Breaks the Internet. Ralph and fellow misfit Vanellope risk it all by traveling to the world wide web in search of a part to save her game, Sugar Rush. They're in way over their heads, so they must rely on the citizens of the internet to help them navigate their way. Parental guidance recommended. Suggested age 5 & up. Monroe County Public Library will be showing this film in the Auditorium from 3:00pm – 4:45pm. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson at (812) 349-3103 or cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us.

Wednesday, March 27th

Mock Interview Day

Mock Interview Day is a chance for individuals with disabilities to practice interviewing skills with a community employer. The Job Developers Council will be hosting this event from 1:00-3:00 pm at MCCSC Education Resource Center. The Job Development Council, a part of the Community Transition Council, consists of representatives from Bloomington North and South High Schools, Community Transitions Program, LifeDesigns, Stone Belt, Centerstone, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. If interested in participating, contact Brandi Hamilton at bhamilton@lifedesignsinc.org.

Sunday, March 31st

IU Cinema Presents *Izzy*

For *Izzy* presents a narrative feature drama told in a documentary format and infused with elements of magical realism. Anna, a retired divorcee, and Dede, her lesbian daughter, move next door to Peter, a lonely widowed father to Laura, an adult with autism. Unexpected romance, friendship, and demons emerge as a result. IU Cinema will be showing this film at 4:00pm on March 31st. For more information, contact IU Cinema at iucinema@indiana.edu or 812-856-2463.

APRIL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Monday, April 1st **Caregiver University: *What Is a Dementia Friendly Community?***

What does “Dementia Friendly” mean to our community? And why it is important? Learn about what is happening in your own community and who is involved. Find out how this will shape the future of our aging population through inclusion, awareness, and better education about the disease. This event will be taking place in the Monroe County Public Library – Room 2B from 1:00pm – 2:00pm. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson at (812) 349-3103 or cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us.

Tuesday, April 2nd **IU Cinema Presents *bias***

bias is a film that challenges us to confront our hidden biases and understand what we risk when we follow our gut. Through exposing her own biases, award-winning documentary filmmaker Hauser highlights the nature of implicit bias, the grip it holds on our social and professional lives, and what it will take to induce change. IU Cinema will be showing this film at 7:00pm on April 2nd. For more information, contact IU Cinema at iucinema@indiana.edu or 812-856-2463.

Wednesday, April 3rd **Transition and Community Resource Fair**

The Monroe/Owen Transition Council will host its annual Transition and Community Resource Fair on Wednesday, April 3 from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Ivy Tech Community College in the Student Commons/Shreve Hall. There will be almost 50 vendors from adult service providers to recreation to advocacy to transportation represented. The theme of this year is "Be a Star!" For further information, contact Jennifer Robinson @ 330-7700, ext. 51086, jrobinso@mccsc.edu; Mary Ellen Jones @ 335-3507, ext. 174, mejones@stonebelt.org; or Melinda Bunger @ 330-7700, ext. 50124, mbunger@mccsc.edu

Monday, April 8th **CCA Transportation and Mobility Committee Monthly Meeting**

Come join us for our April meeting, to hear from Lisa Ridge, Highway Director, to address the accessibility concerns of the new FSSA building location on Curry Pike. The meeting begins at 4:00 in the Dunlap Room at City Hall. Questions? Contact Michael Shermis at cca@bloomington.in.gov.

Saturday, April 13th **PALS Volunteer Training**

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS) is offering a volunteer training for individuals interested in participating in PALS therapeutic equine programs. Responsibilities include leading horses and/or side-walking for our clients during riding sessions. Volunteers have the opportunity to work closely with PALS clients, learn about therapeutic equine programs, and help groom, saddle, train, and care for horses and help with barn chores. No horse experience necessary! This training will be held from 10:00-12:30pm on April 13th. For more information, contact volunteer@palstherapy.org or 812-336-2798 ext. 0

TBA “Way to Go” Travel Training

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